

Springfield Dec. 10. '85

& so dried up. Then I come back
I shall stop in Boston a day or
two; I may go out to see Dr. Gray
and tell him what I have learned
about *Erica tetralix*. I have written
already to four people, and it has
turned out as I knew it would.
I felt sure that two would not
answer at all, and they have not.
I knew that one would and as for
Gess, but that she would not be clear
and that has come true. The fourth
if he is alive and well, will write me
an elegant letter full of copious &
accurate information, but it will be
a work of time — he is at it now
I know. I tell you this because the
Dr. may speak of this new *Erica*
to you — and he might go as to
say that I had promised to find
out about it.

Dr. Chapin would like in return

My dear Mr. Deane,

I have a package of twelve
plants to send by this same mail,
on which I will make a few com-
ments. The names of any are
wrong. I want to know it. *Mullen-*
Bergia Capillaris I have not studied
out myself — have not had time.
The seeds of *E. pusillum* are
about all that distinguish it
when dried from *E. molle*. I
have called this species *pusillum* —
the seeds are smooth, though the
carpels are hairy. I send *Era-*
grodis poaeoides only to ask you if
it is the var. *megastachya* — it is
the only form that we find here.
In the *Andromeda Catalogue* they
have *E. villosa*, and I have a

specimen that Mr. Leach gave
me for *Silene*, but it looks
exactly like this *Purshii*. Miss
Shattuck of Mt. Holyoke Seminary
tells me that *Silene acaulis* grows
there, and the *Purshii* that I car-
ried up seemed new to her, so I
suppose that she has not got up there
yet. I don't feel very strong in the
Cyperaceae, but the *Scirpus* that
I have called *debilis* seemed to
agree with the description, and
the one which I think is *Forrei*.
I send the latter only for verifica-
tion — it was abundant where I
found it but it was too late to get
good specimens. With that is an *Alnus*
Corkii with a singular abnormal
growth — perhaps two of the calyx scales
developed to this size — as you think so?

The *Botrychium* is to be sent later.
I am going to *Nantuxus* next.

Tuesday & Wednesday — a very
sudden move — and when I came
back I am not drawn in and
down forever by the whirl that
will catch me, I shall get the
specimens verified by Prof. Eaton
and you will have them before the
next Spring opens. My work is all
pleasant, and I make no com-
plaints about the amount, but it is
exacting. I shall hope to see
Archangelica Gmelini somewhere,
though I shall not go botanizing
more than once — but this great
plant I may see if I am not
particularly in search of plants.
What I am going to look for is
U. subulatus var. *Cleistogama*, on the
edge of Almanac Pond. There is a ter-
restrial and an aquatic form — I guess
I can find the former, ^{although} the pond is

address - though I can't believe
that I shall be there. I seldom
go at this season, and a storm
might upset the whole plan -

Yours very truly

Maria L. Owen

P.S. When I have put in two
specimens, one is for Mr. Churcill
if he wants it - M.L.O.

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For the grasses, Le Sudy, specimens
of *Tricuspis purpurea* and
Brizopyrum spicatum if you have
them to spare. And I ask for him
a specimen of *Holcus lanatus* -
the grass as found here is dwarfish
and miserable every way - But
you need not send them now - I
will ask what he would like for
his *Distyrium* and you can
send all at once.

For myself I would like two
some grasses that I have mentioned
if you can spare them well, and
a *Lanichellia*, which I never saw;
and that is all. I have no herbar-
ium of my own, but am making
a little collection of grasses, still
I am not at all set about these
new specimens and if you have not
a plenty I shall be well contented to

See Dr. Chapin's. He was quite mortified this evening to see on the labels that he brought, that the printer had put a period after the "Ex". He tried to scratch it out, but it still shows. He had never used any before - they were just printed.

That *Cyp. acaule* is a puzzle to me, or rather the *C. pubescens*. *Acaule* was meant, for there was never a *pubescens* on the island to my knowledge. It may be in one of Mr. Dame's lists, though I don't think it is, but I'll find out the source of that mistake sometime.

I know the two plantains now at sight, and *P. major* is quite scarce in this immediate neighborhood

where *P. fragellii* is everywhere.

I guess your *Tom Grever's* *Utricularia* was the type, because that is all that I ever saw there, and because the var. grows in different places - in not in clean sand. I know the very spot where you found the *Gerardias* so beautiful.

If I am in Boston two weeks from today as I expect to be I shall go to the Saturday Show at Horticultural Hall or in the Library, and that is the only thing that I can plan for - my other movements depend on other people and various circumstances, but I never mind if that Show when I am in Boston.

If you write to me next week you may direct to Nantucket - no friend



Owen, Maria L. 1885. "Owen, Maria Louisa Oct. 10, 1885." *Maria L. Owen letters to Walter Deane*

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